

CLAIMS

1. A clip for holding a stack of trays, each tray containing pockets adapted to hold integrated circuits therein and the stack having first and second opposing perimeter areas associated therewith, comprising:

a housing that defines a chamber for holding said stack therein, the chamber being accessible from an open front area and open top area, without any support structure connecting between the open top and open front area, said housing including:

a base adapted to support a bottom of said stack, said base having a front edge, first and second opposing side edges, and a back edge;

a back wall that restrains the stack within a back of said chamber;

first and second side walls attached to said first and second opposing edges respectively adapted to restrain the stack laterally in said chamber; and

first and second resilient members, attached at proximal ends to the respective first and second side wall and at distal ends to the back wall, wherein said first and second resilient members are adapted to resiliently move when the stack is being inserted into said chamber in order to clamp the stack in the chamber once the stack is inserted into the chamber.

2. A clip as recited in claim 1 wherein the back wall has a lower back surface and an upper back surface;

each of said first and second side walls have a front edge that defines a front height of the open front area, and a back edge of height less than said front height attached to a lower back surface of the back wall, and wherein said back wall has an upper back surface extending above said lower back surface; and

the first and second resilient members and extension have the proximal ends connected to a top portion of said first and second side walls, respectively, and the distal ends connected to an upper portion of said upper back surface of the back wall, wherein said members are adapted to resiliently move into a portion of an open sidewall area when clamping the stack in the chamber, and wherein said first and second resilient members extend inward into said chamber from said first and second side walls respectively.

3. A clip as recited in claim 2, wherein the upper back surface of the back wall is resilient and is adapted to resiliently move in coordination with the first and second resilient members when the stack is being inserted into or removed from said chamber.

4. A clip as recited in claim 3, wherein the top front edge of the first and second side walls are each resilient and adapted to move outwards to temporarily enlarge a width of the chamber when the stack is being inserted into or removed from said chamber.

5. A clip as recited in claim 4, further including first and second tabs attached to a front portion of the first and second sidewalls, respectively, that each project into the chamber a predetermined distance and hold the stack in the chamber after the stack has been inserted into the chamber; and

wherein the top front edge of the first and second sidewalls are resilient so as to be movable outwards to temporarily enlarge the width of the chamber at a location of the first and second tabs in an amount that corresponds to the predetermined distance until the stack has been inserted into or removed from the chamber.

6. A clip as recited in claim 2, wherein the top front edge of the first and second side walls are each resilient and adapted to move outwards to temporarily enlarge a width of the chamber when the stack is being inserted into or removed from said chamber.

7. A clip as recited in claim 6, further including first and second tabs attached to a front portion of the first and second sidewalls, respectively, that each project into the chamber a predetermined distance and hold the stack in the chamber after the stack has been inserted into the chamber; and

wherein the top front edge of the first and second sidewalls are resilient so as to be movable outwards to temporarily enlarge the width of the chamber at a location of the first and second tabs in an amount that corresponds to the predetermined distance until the stack has been inserted into or removed from the chamber.

8. A clip as recited in claim 1 wherein the back wall has a lower back surface and an upper back surface, and the upper back surface of the back wall is resilient and is adapted to resiliently move in coordination with the first and second resilient members when the stack is being inserted into said chamber.

9. A clip as recited in claim 8 made by injection molding.

10. A clip as recited in claim 8, wherein the top front edge of the first and second side walls are each resilient and adapted to move outwards to temporarily enlarge a width of the chamber when the stack is being inserted into or removed from said chamber.

11. A clip as recited in claim 10 made by injection molding.

12. A clip as recited in claim 10, further including first and second tabs attached to a front portion of the first and second sidewalls, respectively, that each project into the chamber a predetermined distance and hold the stack in the chamber after the stack has been inserted into the chamber; and

wherein the top front edge of the first and second sidewalls are resilient so as to be movable outwards to temporarily enlarge the width of the chamber at a location of the first and second tabs in an amount that corresponds to the predetermined distance until the stack has been inserted into or removed from the chamber.

13. A clip as recited in claim 12 made by injection molding.

14. A clip as recited in claim 1, wherein top front portion of the first and second side walls are each resilient and adapted to move outwards to temporarily enlarge a width of the chamber when the stack is being inserted into or removed from said chamber.

15. A clip as recited in claim 14 made by injection molding.

16. A clip as recited in claim 14, further including first and second tabs attached to a front portion of the first and second sidewalls, respectively, that each project into the chamber a predetermined distance and hold the stack in the chamber after the stack has been inserted into the chamber; and

wherein the top front edge of the first and second sidewalls are resilient so as to be movable outwards to temporarily enlarge the width of the chamber at a location of the first and second tabs in an amount that corresponds to the predetermined distance until the stack has been inserted into or removed from the chamber.

17. A clip as recited in claim 16 made by injection molding.

18. A clip as recited in claim 1 wherein said first and second resilient members are configured to limit application of pressure to stack perimeter areas to clamp said stack.

19. A clip as recited in claim 1 wherein said first and second resilient members are configured to apply pressure to both perimeter and non-perimeter areas of said stack.